

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 DLOS-09 EB-07 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
/079 R

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ARA/CAR-MR. SANTILLANA

-----131436Z 101395 /42

P R 112139Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 107512

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EFIS, PFOR, DR

SUBJECT: GODR 200 MILES FISHERIES JURISDICTION

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 1997

1. REFTTEL INDICATES THAT ON APRIL 1 GODR PASSED LAW
EXTENDING ITS FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES. DEPT.
HAS BEEN AWAITING THIS ACTION SO THAT WE COULD FORMALLY
APPROACH GODR TO REQUEST MARITIME NEGOTIATIONS.
FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE FOR EMBASSY
TRANSMITTAL TO FOREIGN MINISTRY:

BEGIN TEXT. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF
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AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAS THE
HONOR TO REFER TO THE LAW OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WHICH
ESTABLISHES A 200-MILE FISHERY ZONE OFF THE COAST OF THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS AWARE THAT UNITED STATES FISH-

ING VESSELS, IN PARTICULAR THOSE OPERATING OUT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, HAVE TRADITIONALLY FISHED IN WATERS WHICH WILL NOW BE A PART OF THE FISHERIES ZONE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS OF THE

FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MEET IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT WHICH THE EXTENSION OF FISHERIES JURISDICTION BY THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MAY HAVE ON UNITED STATES FISHERMEN, AND TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING A FISHERIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. SUCH AN AGREEMENT MIGHT PROVIDE ACCESS, UNDER A LICENSING ARRANGEMENT, FOR U.S. FISHERMEN TO SPECIFIED SURPLUS AMOUNTS OF FISH OFF THE COAST OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE TRADITIONALLY FISHED.

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS ALSO AWARE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS ENFORCING ITS FISHERY JURISDICTION IN THE AREA OFF THE COAST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF

PUERTO RICO TO LIMITS, AS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES, DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUIDISTANCE. NOW THAT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAS EXTENDED ITS FISHERY JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES, THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO DETERMINE A MARITIME BOUNDARY BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS, AND

PROPOSES THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED DISCUSSIONS ALSO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING A MARITIME BOUNDARY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THE MEANTIME, THE EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WILL EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF ITS LAW AGAINST U.S. FISHERMEN UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A FISHERIES AND BOUNDARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE. END OF TEXT.

2. IN MAKING PRESENTATION EMBASSY SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT UNTIL THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CAN DISCUSS THESE MATTERS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, LAW, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE107512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BSHALLMAN:EEB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770169-0340
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770568/aaaacgum.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ae683096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SANTO DOMINGO 1997
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2558163
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GODR 200 MILES FISHERIES JURISDICTION
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, DR, US
To: SANTO DOMINGO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ae683096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009